

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 NEA-09

OIC-02 USIE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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FM US DEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 086

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

US MISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA

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SUBJECT: MAY 8 MEETING OF AGRICULTURE GROUP

REFS: A) MTN GENEVA 3334; B) USEC BRUSSELS 4022

1. SUMMARY. THE WORK OF THE MTN AGRICULTURE GROUP HAS BEEN FINALLY LAUNCHED. THE GROUP MET ON MAY 8 AND ADOPTED THE WORK PROGRAM AS PER REFTEL B WITH INSIGNIFICANT CHANGES CONCERNING THE TREATMENT OF THE LDGS. THE MEETING WAS HARMONIOUS AND TOOK PLACE IN A COOPERATIVE ATMOSPHERE. THE GROUP AGREED ON DATES FOR INITIAL MEETINGS OF THE SUBGROUPS AND FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL GROUP. THE SUBGROUP GRAINS IS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON MAY 26. IT MAY BE EXPECTED THAT ON THIS OCCASION THE EC WILL MAKE A MAJOR EFFORT TO IMPRESS OTHER DELEGATIONS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MTN GRAINS NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE AGRICULTURE GROUP RECONVENED IN MAY 8. AT THE OPENING OF THE MEETING THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT HE HAD LEARNED THAT THE U.S. AND EC HAVE REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING ON THE WORK PROGRAM OF THE GROUP. HE INVITED BOTH PARTIES TO EXPLAIN THIS UNDERSTANDING.

3. BOTH U.S. (KOENIG) AND EC (PIZUTTI) EXPLAINED IN SHORT STATEMENTS THAT THE U.S.-EC DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS HAS BEEN RECONCILED. BOTH STATED THAT THE U.S.-EC UNDERSTANDING ON HOW TO PROCEED IN THE AGRICULTURE GROUP TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE VIEWS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ALL DELEGATIONS WOULD THEREFORE BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THIS UNDERSTANDING.

4. THE CHAIRMAN THEN COMMUNICATED THE TEXT OF THE UNDERSTANDING (AS PER REFTEL B) TO THE GROUP FOR COMMENT. PRACTICALLY ALL DELEGATIONS ACCEPTED THE TEXT, THOUGH IN SOME INSTANCES WITH THE COMMENT THAT THEY WOULD REFRAIN FROM REQUESTING MODIFICATIONS IN ORDER THAT THE WORK OF THE GROUP AND SUBGROUPS MAY FINALLY BEGIN.

5. ONLY THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION QUESTIONED SOME SUBSTANTIVE PARTS OF THE AGREED TEXT AND SUGGESTED DRAFTING CHANGES. THE EC IN REPLY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN WHICH THE U.S. CONCURRED.

6. AS REGARDS THE TERM QUOTE CONTEXTS UNQUOTE IN PARA TWO OF THE AGREED TEXT, THE EC STATED QUOTE CONTEXTS MEANS THE VARIOUS BODIES, GROUPS, OR SUBGROUPS OF THE MTN. AS TO WHERE THE NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE, QUESTIONS RELATED TO AGRICULTURE MAY BE RAISED IN ALL GROUPS OR SUBGROUPS OF THE MTN. UNQUOTE

7. AS REGARDS PARA 5-A OF THE AGREED TEXT, THE EC MADE A STATEMENT ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: IT IS NOT THE INTENT OF PARA 5-A TO LIMIT OR CIRCUMSCRIBE THE WORK BEING CARRIED OUT IN LONDON. IT IS THE INTENT OF PARA 5-A THAT PARTICIPANTS IN THE MTN GRAINS SUBGROUP ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THE WORK IN LONDON WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO ACTIVELY. EC THEN STATED: QUOTE THE QUESTION OF HOW TO INTEGRATE THE WORK DONE IN LONDON INTO THAT OF THE MTN SUBGROUP GRAINS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP PRAGMATICALLY AT SOME FUTURE STAGE OF THE MTN. THIS TEXT ELUCIDATES CLEARLY THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS. UNQUOTE

8. A NUMBER OF LDC DELEGATIONS, I.E. URUGUAY, INDIA, BOLIVIA AND EGYPT, SUGGESTED MODIFYING PARA SEVEN OF THE TEXT TO STRESS THE INTENT OF THE TOKYO DECLARATION. U.S. POINTED OUT THAT SUCH MODIFICATIONS WOULD BE REDUNDANT SINCE IT IS SELF-UNDERSTOOD THAT THE WHOLE MTN WORK IS BASED ON THE TOKYO DECLARATION. HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF UNRAVELING THE SUBSTANTIVE PARAGRAPHS OF THE TEXT, U.S. AND OTHER DELEGATIONS FINALLY ACQUIESCED IN MODIFICATION OF PARA SEVEN, WHICH WILL READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE GROUP EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE APPLICATION OF DIFFERENTIAL MEASURES TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN WAYS WHICH WOULD PROVIDE SPECIAL AND MORE FAVORABLE TREATMENT FOR THEM, ESPECIALLY IN THE AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES EMBODIED IN THE TOKYO DECLARATION. UNQUOTE

9. THE GROUP AGREED ON THE DATES FOR THE INITIAL MEET-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INGS OF THE SUBGROUPS AND THE NEXT MEETING OF FULL GROUP AS FOLLOWS:

SUBGROUP GRAINS--MAY 26

SUBGROUP MEAT--JUNE 16

SUBGROUP DAIRY--JUNE 23

AGRICULTURE GROUP--JULY 8

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT ALL THESE DATES EXCEPT THAT FOR THE GRAINS SUBGROUP ARE PROVISIONAL BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE CONFLICTS WITH DATES FOR MEETINGS OF OTHER MTN GROUPS.

10. COMMENT: FORMAL EC CONCURRENCE WITH US-EC AGREED TEXT WAS UNCERTAIN UP TO THE LAST MOMENT BECAUSE OF REPORTED FRENCH OBJECTIONS. FRENCH DELEGATES TOLD US PRIVATELY THAT THIS WAS A VICTORY FOR THE U.S., IMPLY-

ING THAT THE EC WAS THE LOSER. WE REPLIED THAT THE AGREEMENT WAS IN THE INTEREST OF ALL CONCERNED.

11. IN CONNECTION WITH THE DISCUSSION ON THE FIXING OF THE DATE FOR THE GRAINS SUBGROUP MEETING AND ALSO IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, PIZZUTI SUGGESTED THAT THE FIRST MEETING OF THIS GROUP MUST LAST AT LEAST ONE WEEK. WE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE EC PLANS TO USE THIS FIRST MEETING FOR AN ELABORATE AND VERY COMPREHENSIVE PRESENTATION OF THE EC PROPOSALS ON GRAINS. THIS MAY BE INTENDED TO IMPRESS OTHER DELEGATIONS OF THE PRIMACY OF THE MTN GRAINS NEGOTIATIONS. HOWEVER, EC DID NOT QUESTION PUBLICLY THE MAY 28 DATE OF THE LONDON GRAINS MEETING AND AGREED PRIVATELY THAT WORKING HYPOTHESIS WAS THAT THIS DATE IS FIRM. EC ALSO DID NOT QUESTION THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS THAT THE GRAINS SUBGROUP MAY HAVE TO RECESS ON MAY 27 IN VIEW OF THE MAY 28 LONDON MEETING.

12. IN THE DISCUSSION ON THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FULL AGRICULTURE GROUP, EC STATED THAT A NUMBER OF ISSUES HAVE STILL TO BE DECIDED AT THAT MEETING, INTER ALIA THE POSSIBILITY OF CREATING SUBGROUPS ON SOME TARIFF AND NONTARIFF MEASURES. EC CITED IN THIS CONTEXT PARA THREE OF THE AGREED TEXT.

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13. LUYTEN IN PRIVATE MEETING CONFIRMED THAT ONLY THE ENGLISH VERSION OF THE U.S./EC AGREEMENT IS VALID. HOWEVER ON MAY 8 HE ASSERTED PRIVATELY THAT SINCE THE U.S.-EC AGREEMENT HAS BECOME A GATT DOCUMENT, THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH VERSIONS ARE OF EQUAL VALIDITY. WE REITERATED THAT AS FAR AS THE U.S. AND EC ARE CONCERNED, ONLY THE ENGLISH VERSION IS VALID. WE HAD OCCASION TO CORRECT SOME WORDS IN THE GATT INFORMAL FRENCH TRANSLATION BUT HAVE NOT YET SEEN THE FINAL GATT DOCUMENT.

14. AS REGARDS THE PRODUCT COVERAGE OF THE MEAT SUBGROUP, EC OBVIOUSLY INTENDS TO GIVE PRIORITY TO BEEF AND TO DE-EMPHASIZE DEALING WITH OTHER MEATS SUCH AS PORK, POULTRY AND SHEEP MEAT.

15. FINAL GATT DOCUMENTS WILL BE FORWARDED BY SEPTTEL AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.HARTZELL

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